

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 /090 W

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R 111617Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1542

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USUN NY 469

C O N F I D E N T I A D MADRID 2496

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, SS, SP, MO, UN

SUBJ: SAHARA DEVELOPMENTS

REF: MADRID 1346

SUMMARY: MFA SAYS SITUATION IN SHARA HAS BEEN CALM AND GOS IS WAITING WITH PATIENCE ICJ ADVISORY OPINION. MFA DOWNPLAYED RECENT KIDNAPPING IN SHARRA AND ACCIDENTAL DEATHS OF THREE SOLDIERS. SPANISH-SPONSORED SAHARAN PARTY OF NATIONAL UNION HAS ISSUED PROGRAM SUPPORTING EVENTUAL INDEPENDENCE. MFA SAYS SPECIFIC DATES FOR UN COMMITTEE OF 24 VISIT TO SAHARA HAVE AS YET NOT BEEN FIXED. END SUMMARY

1. MFA DIRECTOR FOR NEAR EAST AND NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 8 THAT SITUATION IN SPANISH SAHARA IS TRANQUIL. GOS WAS PLEASED THAT 4 OF 5 LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES WHICH HAD SUBMITTED DOCUMENTATION HAD SUPPORTED SPANISH POSITION TO ICJ AND THAT NO AFRICAN COUNTRY, OTHER THAN  
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MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA, HAD SUBMITTED DOCUMENTATION NOR ANY

OTHER ARAB COUNTRY. ACCORDING TO THEIR INFO, FRENCH HAVE NOT SUBMITTED ANY NEW DOCUMENTATION SUPPLEMENTAL TO WHAT THEY FURNISHED ICJ IN 1952 WITH RESPECT TO LITIGATION WITH USA AT THAT TIME OVER CONSULAR RIGHTS IN TANGIER. (EARLIER, MFA DIRGEN TOLD EMBOFF GOS HAD SUBMITTED WELL-DOCUMENTED CASE TO ICJ SHORTLY BEFORE COURT'S MARCH 27 DEADLINE CONSISTING OF ABOUT 600 PAGES OF LEGAL ARGUMENTATION BACKED UP BY 1000 PAGES OF MAPS, OLD TREATIES AND DOCUMENTS AND OTHER EXHIBITS.) MFA SAID IT WOULD WELCOME UN COMMITTEE OF 24 VISIT TO SAHARA AND THAT MFA OFFICIAL WOULD PROBABLY BE ON HAND BUT THAT DEFINITE DATES IN MAY HAD NOT BEEN FIXED AS YET OWING TO SCHEDULING DIFFICULTY AMONG COUNTRIES MAKING UP UN TEAM.

2. MFA REPORTED THAT INCIDENTS IN SAHARA HAD DECLINED SHARPLY SINCE "CRISIS" INITIATED BY MOROCCO IN JULY 1974. OUTCOME OF MOROCCAN DEMANDS FOR INCORPORATION OF SAHARA INTO MOROCCO HAS BEEN SUSURGE OF NATIONALIST FEELING AMONG SAHARANS WHO, IN THEIR ASPIRATION FOR MORE INTERNAL AUTONOMY, ARE HOSTILE TO BECOMING "CROWN COLONY" OF MOROCCO. DISCUSSING POLITICAL FORCES IN SAHARA, MFA OFFICIAL SAID THAT POPULAR FRONT FOR LIBERATION OF SAGUIA EL HAMRA Y RIO DE ORO (F POLISARIO) ALTHOUGH ILLEGAL MOVEMENT, WAS IN CONTACT WITH GOS. BOTH THIS ORGANIZATION, AND THE RECENTLY ESTABLISHED NATIONAL SAHARAN UNION ADVOCATED INDEPENDENCE, HE SAID, NOT INCORPORATION WITH MOROCCO. HE REPORTED THAT THIRD SAHARAN ORGANIZATION KNOWN AS "BLUE MEN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT (MOREHOB)" IS A "CHAMELEON" WHICH HAS CHANGED ITS HQS SUCCESSIVELY FROM RABAT, PARIS, ALGIERS, AND NOW CASABLANCA. HE DISMISSED THIS GROUP AS BEING UNIMPORTANT. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL, THERE WERE 8 INCIDENTS FROM 1972 THROUGH JULY 1974 AND ONLY 1 INCIDENT SINCE THEN INVOLVING MORTALITIES.

3. ASKED ABOUT BACKGROUND OF KIDNAPPING OF SPANISH DRIVER MARCH 13 IN SAHARA, MFA OFFICIAL SAID GOS WAS TRYING TO DETERMINE CIRCUMSTANCES OF INCIDENT AND HAD REACHED CONCLUSION THAT IT INVOLVED "PRIVATE AFFAIR" AND NOT A POLITICAL MATTER. (CORRESPONDENT OF "YA" REPORTED FROM LAS PALMAS APRIL 11 THAT SECRETARY OF GOVERNOR GENERAL OF SAHARA HAD SAID THAT SPANIARD HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED BY F POLISARIO AND WAS IN HANDS OF ARMED BAND NUMBERING APPROX 250 LOCATED IN MAURITANIAN DESERT. CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARY CONFIRMEX REPORTS THAT GOS WAS NEGOTIATING HIS RELEASE. OTHER PRESS REPORTS SUGGESTED THAT F POLISARIO WAS ASKING FOR RELEASE OF SEVERAL PRISONERS HELD BY GOS.)

4. MFA CONFIRMED DEATHS REPORTED IN PRESS OF AIR FORCE SGT AND TWO LEGIONNAIRES, ONE OF WHOM WAS FRENCH, APRIL 2. DEATH OF AIR FORCE SGT WAS ACCIDENTAL WHEREAS TWO LEGIONNAIRES WERE INVOLVED IN DISPUTE. MFA OFFICIAL SAID THESE DEATHS

WERE CONSIDERED ROUTINE IN CARRYING OUT TYPE OF GARRISON DUTY  
IN AREA.

5. SECGEN OF NATIONAL SAHARAN UNION, HALIHENNA RACHID,  
GAVE INTERVIEW TO CORRESPONDENT IN EL AIUN PUBLISHED IN  
BARCELONA DAILY "EL NOTICIERO UNIVERSAL" APRIL 10 SAYING  
THAT ALGERIA SUPPORTED FORMATION OF UNION AND DID NOT OBJECT  
AS DID MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. ALGERIA ADVOCATED INDEPENDENCE  
FOR SAHARA, HE SAID, AND BUTTRESSED THIS POSITION IN UN,  
AMONG ARAB COUNTRIES, AND OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.  
RACHID REPORTED THAT MEMBERSHIP OF UNION TOTALLED 19,800.

6. MFA, WHICH DOES NOT HAVE DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
SAHARA, AND MAY NOT BE AS WELL INFORMED OR WILLING TO DIVULGE  
INFO AS DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SAHARA IN PRSIDENCY, PREFERS  
TO CONVEY IMPRESSION THAT EVERYTHING IS UNDER CONTROL IN  
SAHARA. IN MOST RECENT MEETING WITH DIRGEN OF SAHARA, EMOFF  
GATHERED THAT INCIDENTS WERE MORE FREQUENT THAN REPORTED BY  
MFA (REFTEL). KIDNAPPING INCIDENT WOULD TEND SUPPORT OUR  
SUSPICIONS THAT ALL IS NOT AS WELL AS MFA WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE.  
RACHID'S ESTIMATE OF UNION'S MEMBERSHIP IS HARDLY CREDITABLE IF  
JUXTAPOSED WITH GOS POPULATION ESTIMATE OF 75,000 IN SAHARA,  
AND HIS BELIEF IN ALGERIAN SUPPORT MIGHT BE BASED MERELY ON  
CIRCUMSTANTIAL FACTORS REFLECTING ALGERIAN PREFERENCE TO  
AVOID TAKING STAND.  
STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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